

RE: Final questions

Staudt, Richard <restaudt@seattleschools.org>

Thu 1/31/2019 3:09 PM

To: Neal Morton <nmorton@seattletimes.com>

Cc: Robinson, Tim <tirobinson@seattleschools.org>; Joy Resmovits <jresmovits@seattletimes.com>; Campbell, Carri J <cjcampbell@seattleschools.org>

Neal,

I am not sure I understand to whom you spoke. If that was a comment to which you desire a response, could you rephrase that?

Although we've told you this more than once before, you are absolutely correct, we do not test restroom sinks but post "do not drink the sink water" graphical signs at those. There are even more reasons from a health perspective why we would discourage drinking from bathroom sinks than there would be for a classroom handwashing sink. (Before you feel the need to ask, think about where hands may have been before touching bathroom sinks.) Those signs should be posted in every bathroom and Shelly periodically asks the custodians to check whether any have been peeled off by students and to replace them if they find any missing.

If these are indeed your final questions, I do want to thank you for identifying a few different ways we can make our program even more transparent and easily understood by all stakeholders. I am still perplexed by your apparent determination to find fault where there is none (or, more precisely, where you've identified around a 0.08% error rate). I can't understand your reluctance to speak to the scientific experts in this area, whose story your readers would likely want to hear. And I remain concerned about your unwillingness to commit to providing your readers the context in which my quotes were spoken. But, if we keep our eyes on our goal of doing the best we can for our students and families, your suggestions will have helped us improve how we communicate.

Richard

From: Neal Morton <nmorton@seattletimes.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 2:06 PM

To: Staudt, Richard <restaudt@seattleschools.org>

Cc: Tim Burgess <councilmantim@gmail.com>; Joy Resmovits <jresmovits@seattletimes.com>

Subject: Final questions

I spoke too, Richard.

One of my editors had a final couple questions about some notes I reported from Emerson Elementary.

Because it was parent-teacher conference day, Shelly encountered a few teachers chatting before they left for the holiday break. They asked Shelly what she doing, and got a quick lesson in water quality testing. One of them, perhaps the main teacher that works in that classroom, asked Shelly why she wasn't collecting a sample from the sink in the bathroom. (I believe it was a kindergarten classroom, since the bathroom wasn't separate.)

Shelly told the teacher that y'all don't test bathroom sinks and that children shouldn't be drinking from them. And I haven't seen any bathroom water fixtures included in the test results.

Can you confirm whether that's your policy? Also, you and I briefly discussed the no drinking sign in the bathrooms on the main level of the Stanford center. Do you post similar signs in school bathrooms?

My apologies for not asking earlier,

-Neal Morton

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